

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SCCT-02

AID-20 CCO-00 FBO-01 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NIC-01

NSC-07 SPC-03 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-04 USSS-00 RSC-01

PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-20 SY-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 SCS-03 PC-10 DRC-01 /139 W

----- 125779

O R 052030Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5555

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1650

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PGOV, AR

SUBJ: SENATE PASSES INTERVENTION MEASURE FOR CORDOBA

REF: BA-1572, BA-1564 AND BA-1550

1. SUMMARY: SENATE EARLY THIS MORNING VOTED APPROVAL OF INTERVENTION, AFTER SHARP DEBATE. CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES WILL TAKE UP MATTER MARCH 6. PROPOSAL EXPECTED TO ENCOUNTER HEAVY GOING THERE BUT WILL PROBABLY PASS SOONER OR LATER. SITUATION IN CORDOBA STILL CONFUSED BUT FIGHTING SEEMS TO HAVE DECLINED SINCE SUNDAY. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE, GOVERNMENT'S VERSION OF INTERVENTION MEASURE PASSED SENATE BY VOTE OF 46 TO 14. UCR OPPOSED TO A MAN AFTER DIRECTING BITING CRITICISM AT GOVERNMENT. UCR SENATOR ANGELOZ (FROM CORDOBA) WAS EXPECIALLY SCATHING, CHARGING GOVERNMENT WITH LIES AND BAD FAITH. BEFORE MATTER CAME TO VOTE, UCR WITH SUPPORT OF OTHERS, TRIED TO REFORMULATE RESOLUTION SO THAT INTERVENTION WOULD BE LIMITED TO SUPPRESSING

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SEDITION AND RESTORING ELECTED AUTHORITIES TO OFFICE. WHEN THIS DID NOT PROSPER, UCR DEMANDED THAT SENATE INTERPOLATE INTERIOR MINISTER LLAMBI ON GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF SITUATION IN CORDOBA. FREJULI LEADER MARTIARENA INSISTED THAT SUFFICIENT INFO WAS AVAILABLE IN PRESS AND MOTION WAS DEFEATED.

3. FINAL VOTE DOES NOT INDICATE DEGREE OF DISSENSION CAUSED BY MEASURE. PERONIST ALLIES IN FREJULI VOTED WITH BLOC IN FINAL VOTE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULES OF BLOC DISCIPLINE. IN BLOC MEETINGS AND IN COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, THERE WERE SHARP DISAGREEMENTS. PPC'S SENATOR ALLENDE (OF CORDOBA), THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, DESCRIBED GOVERNMENT'S VERSION AS SHOVEL WITH WHICH FREJULI WAS DIGGING GRAVES FOR ITS ADHERENTS IN CORDOBA. BOTH HE AND SENATOR FONROUGE OF POPULAR CONSERVATIVES, ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO REFORMULATE RESOLUTION TO ENCOMPASS SUPPRESSION OF SEDITION AND PUNISHMENT OF POLICE CHIEF NAVARRO. MID SENATOR AMERICO GARCIA TRIED, EQUALLY UNSUCCESSFULLY, TO HAVE IT STATED THAT INTERVENTION WAS FOR PURPOSE OF RESTORING ELECTED OFFICIALS TO OFFICE. WHILE NONE OF THESE MOVES PROSPERED, DISAGREEMENTS THEY RAISED LEFT BAD FEELINGS AMONG FREJULI PARTIES. IN THE END, HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT'S VERSION STOOD ESSENTIALLY AS SUBMITTED. FREJULI GOT TWO THIRDS NECESSARY TO TREAT MATTER OUT OF TURN AND VOTE ON INTERVENTION MEASURE ITSELF WAS THEN FOREGONE CONCLUSION.

4. INTERVENTION MEASURE IS BEING TREATED IN COMMITTEE BY CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES TODAY AND WILL GO BEFORE FULL CHAMBER ON MARCH 6. THERE IT FACES STIFF OPPOSITION, GOVT MAY HAVE DIFFICULTY IN GETTING NECESSARY TWO THIRDS TO TREAT IT OUT OF TURN, IN WHICH CASE IT COULD NOT BE VOTED ON FOR ANOTHER WEEK OR SO. UCR PLANS TO AGAIN DEMAND INTERPOLATION OF INTERIOR MINISTER.

5. IN ADDITION TO OPPOSITION REGISTERED BY UCR, FRONDIZI OF MID, THEDY OF POPULAR DEMOCRATS, ALENDE OF INSTRANSIGENTES, AND SUELDO OF PRC HAVE ALL TAKEN PUBLIC POSITIONS OPPOSED TO GOVERNMENT'S MEASURES IN CORDOBA.

6. SITUATION IN CORDOBA REMAINS CONFUSED. THERE IS STILL SPORADIC FIRING, BUT WORST OF FIGHTING APPEARS TO HAVE WOUND DOWN. OBREGON CANO HAS NOT RESIGNED BUT REMAINS IN HIDING, CONFIDENTIAL

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FEARING ASSASSINATION AT HANDS OF NAVARRO'S POLICE AND RIGHT-WING PERONIST GOON SQUADS WHICH CONTROL CITY. HE IS THUS PREVENTED BY FORCE FROM EXERCISING AUTHORITY, THOUGH THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION THAT HE IS THE LEGAL GOVERNOR AT LEAST UNTIL ARRIVAL FEDERAL INTERVENTOR. AGODINO, HOWEVER, REMAINS DE FACTO GOVERNOR AND STATED YESTERDAY HE HAD PERON'S SUPPORT. PERON HAS NEITHER CONFIRMED NOR DENIED. NAVARRO REMAINS IN CONTROL OF PROVINCE EVEN THOUGH NATIONAL GENDARMERIA HAVE MOVED IN. TOSCO, ALSO IN

HIDING HAS ISSUED CALL FOR RESISTANCE. SITUATION, THEN, REMAINS
A TINDER BOX. IF INTERVENTION MEASURE IS DELAYED IN CHAM
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, INTERVENTION, LAW, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, POLICE FORCES, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUENOS01650
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740368/aaaacif.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BA-1572, BA-1564 AND BA-1550
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 04 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SENATE PASSES INTERVENTION MEASURE FOR CORDOBA
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PGOV, AR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005